ALTERNATIVE C-2 - GRAZING USE (TASK FORCE PROPOSAL)

OBJECTIVES:

Fulfill the evaluation criteria to the greatest extent practicable without imposing unreasonably costly reclamation measures on Anaconda. Accomodate the following land uses:

FUTURE LAND USES:

Livestock grazing.

Specifically excluded are habitation and farming.

RECLAMATION MEASURES:

OPEN PITS:

Backfill to ten feet above the groundwater recovery level (as determined by the EIS Task Force).

Use waste dumps H and J, excess material obtained from the sloping of waste piles, and other non-hazardous material from waste dumps as backfill.

Cover the backfill material with one foot of topsoil.

Buttress the west side of the Gavilon Mesa highwall (the top of the highwall may be cut back by blasting).

Slope the North Paguate highwall to a 3 to 1 slope, and cover with two feet of topsoil.

Scale all other highwalls.

PROTORE STOCKPILES:

Return all protore to the open pits above the groundwater recovery level.

Cover the piles with four feet of non-hazardous material, and one foot of topsoil.

WASTE PILES:

Relocate dumps H and J to the open pits as backfill material.

Cover dumps that contain hazardous material on their outer surface with four feet of non-hazardous material, and two feet of topsoil.

Cover dumps that do not contain hazardous material on their outer surface with two feet of topsoil.

Leave previously topsoiled and revegetated dumps undisturbed (except to reseed, as necessary).

Reduce all dump slopes to a 3 to 1 grade, and contour furrow.

SITE STABILITY AND DRAINAGE:

Remove all protore and waste material that lies within 200 feet of the Rio Paguate and Rio Moquino. Return the Rio Moquino to its pre-mining gradient and sinuosity using rip rap, gabion structures, and drop structures as necessary. Construct a levee along the north side of the Rio Paguate to prevent the flooding on the North Paguate Pit.

Construct a series of sediment traps in all major arroyos that have the potential of encroaching upon waste dumps.

Construct a series of micro-basins within each open pit (approximately 10 per pit).

Construct erosion control berms on the perimeter of all waste piles. Construct a series of erosion control berms on the top of all waste piles to hold surface runoff.

Remove waste dump J and protore stockpiles 17-BC and 6-B to unblock the ephemeral drainage on the south side of the mine. The two blocked drainages on the north and south sides of Gavilon Mesa will remain blocked. The remainder of the site will drain to the Rio Paguate and Rio Moquino.

Modify waste dumps as previously discussed.

STRUCTURES:

Construct a cement bulkhead 680 feet below the collar of the P-10 decline, and backfill to the surface. Backfill vent holes with waste to within ten feet of the surface, and place a ten foot cement surface plug. All other mine entries would be covered by backfilling, or have been previously plugged.

Remove crusher, tipple, and all other mining equipment.

Salvage all rail spur track, ties, and the Quirk loading dock. Remove ballast and contaminated soils to the open pits. Cover disturbed area with one foot of topsoil.

Clear the four main roads on the site of radiologically contaminated material until values of twice background are achieved. These roads will remain. Clear all other roads and associated structures of radiologically contaminated material until values of twice background are achieved, and recontour these areas to conform to the surrounding terrain.

Remove crusher, tipple, mining equipment, all buildings, sewage systems, and power lines.

Remove all pumps, and cap all water wells.

REVEGETATION:

Obtain topsoil from the four existing topsoil stockpiles, and from the topsoil borrow areas along the Rio Moquino, and from the east side of Gavilon Mesa. Place one foot of topsoil on all backfill material, and two feet on all waste dumps.

Revegetate all disturbed areas to approximate the species density and diversity of the surrounding undisturbed land. Revegetate with predominantly native grasses and shrubs that are conducive to the grazing of livestock.

Prevent grazing for three years following reclamation. Grazing managed by the Pueblo of Laguna and Bureau of Indian Affairs after three years.

MONITORING:

Continue monitoring (by Anaconda) of surface water, groundwater, air quality, subsidence, revegetation success, concentration of toxic elements in revegetation species for a period of five years following the completion of reclamation activities. Subsequent monitoring to be performed by the Department of the Interior.

The Minerals Management Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs would monitor every aspect of the reclamation activities to assure compliance with all reclamation requirements. The Pueblo of Laguna and Bureau of Indian Affairs would control future land use on the site, and would prevent any uses not provided for by this reclamation alternative.

Access prior to and during reclamation would be controlled by Anaconda.